

**AGING IN COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
COMMISSION ON AGING**

December 10, 2019

9:30am-11:30 pm

7300 Calhoun Place, Room 6C Rockville, MD

**In Attendance:** Monica Schaeffer, Mary Sweeney, Barbara Selter, Richard Jourdenais, Marsha Weber, Eddie Rivas

**Staff:** Marcia Pruzan, Pazit Aviv

**Guests:** Sara Fought (JCA)

Topic	Discussion Points	Decisions/Follow-up
1. Welcome and Introductions/ Approval of November 12 Minutes		
2. Review of 2019 AIC Committee Actions/Accomplishments	<p>There were four areas of major accomplishments in 2019 (summaries available by contacting the AIC chairs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food Insecurity:</b> Advocated for getting a Sr. Nutrition position (which has still not been filled); Learned that the MD State Dept. of Aging is providing funding to restore meals on Friday for seniors at Senior Centers</li> <li>• <b>Transportation:</b> Discussed the Ride-On Flex program; Dick Jourdenais, Miriam Kelty, and Monica Schaeffer prepared a letter that was sent</li> </ul>	<p><b>Food Insecurity:</b> Sense of the meeting that there was not much more to pursue in this area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transportation:</b> Dick Jourdenais will follow up to get six to nine-month report to see if the statistics</li> </ul>

	<p>by the COA to the Director of Transportation outlining recommendations to make the pilot Ride-On Flex program more age friendly; the program may expand to telephone service in 2020; Dick summarized a report on the pilot Ride-On Flex Program including the following statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of completed rides increased month over month – 22/day, 28/day,34/day, 44/day, 54/day</li> <li>○ 23% of people who downloaded the app took rides</li> <li>○ Of those not taking rides the reasons included: do not work in service area (40%), wait too long (6%), service too confusing (6%); individuals would increase usage if: expanded service area (28%), improve bad service (12%), shorten wait time (10%), provide more user friendly app (4%)</li> <li>○ Average wait time is 4-6 minutes</li> </ul> <p>● <b>Affordable Housing for 50+:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AIC co-chair Nanine Meiklejohn along with Marsha Webber and the COA Chair met with Aseem Nigan the new Director of DHCA and the new Deputy Director, Frank Demarais and discussed the Commission’s support for increased funding for the County’s Housing Initiative Fund and for modifications to the administration of the State’s Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program to accommodate Montgomery County’s needs better.</li> <li>○ AIC co-chair Nanine Meiklejohn drafted and the Commission sent a letter to Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth Holt in support of Montgomery County’s letter</li> </ul>	<p>are improving; Dick will keep in touch with his contacts to follow the program</p> <p><b>Affordable Housing for 50+:</b> Going forward, the AIC members will research and invite developers to discuss and advocate for any plans for building co-housing projects; members will do more research on multi-generational housing models; committee will continue to track the progress of the Housing Impact Fairness Act</p>
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recommending modifications to the administration of the LIHTC program, including a set aside for a portion of the 9 percent credits for county to address the high costs of land and labor.

- AIC co-chair Nanine Meiklejohn joined a workgroup organized by Senior Fellow Leslie Marks to consider how to make support services more affordable and available to residents in MPDU units in continuing care communities.
  
- Mary Sweeney presented different models of affordable senior housing and reported on the status of the Preservation Study being conducted by Park and Planning. Updates to the Preservation Study Report will be posted on the MoCo Park and Planning website; we will invite Lisa Govoni to a future meeting to update the AIC on the results and conclusions.
  
- Mary Sweeney distributed an article on co-housing, which led to a discussion on co-housing and intergenerational housing – one problem with co-housing model is that there is not much relevant product in MoCo –one problem was that there was a disconnect between what people prefer and the actual available solution, which in turn led to a discussion about the issue of age restricted versus non-age restricted housing (Federal funding requires that Senior housing vouchers be restricted to age restricted housing, but many people prefer non-age restricted housing)
  
- Committee worked on summarizing issues to

The Home-Sharing RFP overseen by the Office of Aging and Disability has still not been distributed and no timetable has been set. Pazit will keep the AIC updated on any progress.

AIC will continue to monitor and advocate for increased funding for the Housing Initiative Fund and will monitor the status of the State’s administration of the LIHTC program.

The AIC Committee will continue its participation in the MPDU workgroup.

The AIC Committee will track the interest of County Executive Elrich regarding rent stabilization.

	<p>be raised to the sponsor of the Housing Impact Fairness Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Employment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Over the summer, Jean, Monica, Marsha and Marcia met with the new Director of the Office of Human Resources, Berke Attila, who indicated he was interested and supportive of issues associated with the employment of the County’s aging workforce, recognizing that 43% of the County’s workforce is 50+.</li> <li>○ The Director of the Office of Human Rights (OHR) Jim Stowe, presented information on age discrimination to the committee (see minutes of the November 2019 meeting).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Race Equity Bill:</b> As a result of the AIC hearing a presentation by C. Marie Taylor, the President of Leadership Montgomery on the Race Equity Bill, committee members discussed questions to be raised at the public hearing on the bill. In addition, County staff involved in working on the Bill made a presentation to the Executive Committee. Members of the committee who attended the public hearing reported that the AIC issues had been addressed and the Bill passed at the end of December.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Employment:</b> AIC is going to look into how the county government is/can be a model for employing seniors with a focus on the Senior Fellows program as a case study to better understand how the county engages the aging workforce in mulit-generational workplaces.</li> </ul> <p>The AIC will pursue ways of working with this Office and the Age-Friendly Employment workgroup to help employers see the benefits of hiring, engaging, and retaining workers who are 50+.</p>
<p>3. Brainstorm: Committee Focus Areas and Action Steps for 2020</p>	<p>After a review of the progress made in the 4 areas, the committee discussed how we wanted to move forward in 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food Insecurity:</b> Stay abreast of what is going on in this area, but not a major area of focus for 2020.</li> <li>• <b>Transportation:</b> Keep abreast of progress on the Ride on Flex Program and get six-nine-month progress report and whether it is being used by seniors; however, this area will not be a major</li> </ul>	<p>For 2020 the AIC Committee will concentrate on two areas: (1) Affordable Housing and (2) Employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The January meeting will focus on Affordable Multigenerational Housing, including housing for seniors.</li> <li>○ The February meeting will focus on Employment, inviting a panel of Senior Fellows to discuss their experiences, both positive and negative, along with Chuck Short,</li> </ul>

	<p>focus for 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Affordable Housing:</b> This will be one of the AIC Committee areas of focus for 2020. The committee will look at how different models of intergenerational housing can be encouraged in MoCo, how the supply of intergenerational housing could be increased, and what developers can do to encourage this; and how the COA can advocate for more of this type of housing for seniors. The Committee also will continue it's advocacy in support of expanding the availability of affordable rental housing.</li><li>• <b>Employment:</b> This will be one of the AIC Committee areas of focus for 2020. The discussion included two different areas of employment: (1) employing seniors and addressing age discrimination in employment; and (2) development of the workforce to provide direct home care for the aging population. There was a discussion of how these two areas could overlap with seniors being employed to assist other seniors.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The AIC committee members want to use the county government as a model to look at how MoCo is adapting and adjusting to the aging demographic shift in the County's population and workforce.</li><li>○ AIC members will keep in contact with the Director of Human Resources regarding his commitment to add a line item to his 10-year budget identified as the "Retooling of the County's Aging Workforce" and his promise to research the Senior Fellows program for potential expansion.</li><li>○ Barbara Selter is going to follow up on the issue of developing the direct care workforce</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>who was the architect for the program for the County.</p>
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and will talk to Lylie Fisher.

4. Next Meeting –February 14, 2020